

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 USIA-06 SP-02 MMO-01 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JHGLENN:JF
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
CU/EE:YRICHMOND

-----017353 290536Z /21

R 282322Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL, TGEN, BU, US

SUBJECT: RICHMOND/GRIGOROV MEETING

1. BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR GRIGOROV MET WITH CU/EE DIRECTOR YALE RICHMOND MARCH 21. RICHMOND EXPLAINED CU'S EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, STRESSED THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD USE THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, AND MENTIONED THE PROBLEM THAT THERE IS NO MECHANISM FOR THE DISCUSSION OF EXCHANGES, THE LACK OF WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO PLAN AT LEAST ONE YEAR AHEAD. RICHMOND ALSO MENTIONED THE PROBLEM THAT EMBASSY SOFIA OFFICIALS HAVE IN TALKING DIRECTLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GOB AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THE EXCHANGES; AT PRESENT, THE EMBASSY MUST REQUEST APPOINTMENTS THROUGH PROTOCOL, A CUMBERSOME, TIME-WASTING PROCESS. RICHMOND NOTED THAT IN OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AS CONFIDENCE HAS GROWN, WE'VE DISPENSED WITH GOING THROUGH PROTOCOL.

2. GRIGOROV REPLIED THAT THE REASON FOR THIS PROCEDURE IS THAT THE MFA DOES NOT WANT TO BE ISOLATED. HE OFFERED TO
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INQUIRE ABOUT ITS MODIFICATION, NOTING THAT WE CONSIDER IT TO BE A "GREAT OBSTACLE" TO IMPROVING RELATIONS VIA EXCHANGES. GRIGOROV STATED THE GOB'S INTEREST IN CONDUCTING ECONOMIC, AS WELL AS CULTURAL, EXCHANGES AND LAMENTED HIS RELATIVE LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH BILATERAL ISSUES DUE TO

HIS UNEXPECTED APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO THE US AND THE

SHORT TIME HE HAS BEEN HERE. COOPER

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